

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2004

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mrs. White. Mr. Eramian was absent; he had a work commitment. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Votto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel under RI State Law 42-46-5(1) and contract and litigation under RI State Law PL 42-46-5(2).

The meeting reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Mrs. White stated for the record that Mr. Eramian had a work commitment.

Mrs. White asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Janice Lisy, a retired teacher, who passed away this past week.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bob Novelli of RISO Products of Boston made a presentation to Mr. Richard Scherza, Assistant Superintendent of Schools. In his presentation he remarked that RISO Products of Boston was quite proud to be part of the educational scene throughout the New England states, especially tonight. He attended this meeting to honor Richard Scherza. In addition to being the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Scherza is also the President of the New England Association of School Superintendents which is a fine organization and a large one. It has 750 members which include superintendents or assistant superintendents. Part of the presentation was a plaque, and RISO Products of Boston presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Mr. Scherza. This money could be used as Mr. Scherza saw fit. Mr. Novelli read the plaque and presented a \$500 check to Mr. Scherza. Mrs. White thanked Mr. Novelli for

the generosity of his company for this generous donation. Mr. Scherza stated that he was matching the \$500 check with an additional \$500 donation.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the October 18, 2004 Executive Session minutes remain confidential and sealed.

Mr. Lupino stated that Energy Education made a presentation to the School Committee recently regarding energy savings and an energy audit. He asked if the school department had gone forward with an RFP for this. In response, Mr. Balducci indicated that the bid closes this Wednesday. He will review the companies that submitted bids, and it will appear on the November School Committee agenda.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that he would like Mr. Traficante to give the committee an update on the report he gave to them in their update on Friday concerning the Intramural Program. He noted that the numbers were extremely heartening to him.

Mr. Traficante reported that the Superintendent asked him to look into each middle school to determine the participation rate at each of the three schools. He spoke with Mr. Bill Macera at Bain who has been active in the Intramural Program for quite some time. He reported that the school is participating in 8th grade flag football and 6th and

7th grade flag football. They have separated the 8th graders because of injury to the younger players. In addition, the enrollment would be too high with the three grades participating together. There are between 70 and 75 from the 8th grade class participating in flag football. There are the same number for the 7th graders, and 65 to 70 students participating from 6th grade. At Park View, Mr. Traficante spoke with Mrs. Thies, school principal, who said that their numbers are ranging between 80 to 85 students per class. At Western Hills, they are doing flag football, soccer, and cross country. Between the three sports, there are between 205 and 210 students participating in fall sports.

Mr. Traficante further commented that he went back over the eligibility list for the three middle schools, and on an average for fall sports there would have been 22 students per soccer team which totals 44 per school, and cross country varied between 20 to 35 because Western Hills had more students participating. He was not advocating one or the other; he was simply stating the numbers. In the past, at the most there would have been 80 students participating in fall sports, and at the present time, there are 200 participating at each school. He spoke with Mr. D'Ambrosio and indicated to him that one of the questions that had come up was whether or not the skilled players participate in intramural sports. Mr. D'Ambrosio stated that at Western Hills he found that many of the students he thought would make the soccer team at Western Hills are not playing soccer but are playing flag football. One of the students told him he is playing CLCF

soccer anyway. It is a diversion for some of the players. At this particular time, there are certainly more students participating in intramurals. For the winter, all three schools

Page 3 October 18, 2004

plan on offering basketball, wrestling and possibly volleyball. Bain is looking into archery and softball for the spring. There are twice as many students participating in intramural as opposed to interscholastic sports.

Mr. Stycos asked for the typical child how many times a week the intramural sports were being offered, and Mr. Traficante responded that the average of the three schools is 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes three days per week. Mr. Stycos asked if there was enough money to sustain this level of program through the end of the year, and Mr. Traficante said that he was not running the intramural program; it was being run by the Physical Education Department. The money was not coming from the athletic budget. Interscholastic sports are funded by the Athletic Department. He knew that the principals were keenly aware of what they had to spend over the course of the year. They are trying to budget now so that they don't go over for the spring sports.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lupino reminded the committee that the regular meeting of the School Buildings Committee would take place tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. He wanted to make sure that all members read the minutes of the previous meeting and understood what was transpiring as far as completions at the new school.

III. MINUTES – September 14, 2004; September 20, 2004

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the September 14, 2004 and September 20, 2004 minutes be approved.

IV. SPEAKERS – Agenda Items

Brad Draycott, 1345 Seven Mile Road – Mr. Draycott spoke on Resolution No. 04-10-6 regarding banning School Committee members who discuss Executive Session meeting information. He commented that while Mrs. White proposed to sanction the School Committee members from attending the executive meetings who disclose information from an executive meeting session, he respected the purpose of executive session to give the committee the opportunity to talk freely about personnel matters and sensitive and confidential issues. He agreed that this should be maintained.

However, Mrs. White's resolution would take confidentiality to a level of suppression of an elected official. In the event this resolution does pass, he asked that a clause be added to identify to the public, without disclosing content, the subject matter and an explanation for the required confidentiality. Also, there should be a clause for appeal to another authority to review the validity of the confidential requirements. He asked what was so

Page 4 October 18, 2004

important that has made this an issue that is so necessary now. He asked if she didn't trust the committee members now to know the difference between a confidential personnel matter or a controversial issue. The resolution could create illegal backdoor meetings, avoiding public scrutiny, and banishing dissenters of the committee. All members of the committee have been elected to their seat, and the committee does not have the right to ban members from their elected responsibilities without a due process.

Rick Abbruzzini, 7 Brookfield Road, Coventry, RI/ teacher at the Cranston Career & Technical Center and parent of a student who attends the Center – He spoke regarding Resolution No. 04-10-7. He stated that as the father of an out-of-district student, one of the reasons they chose the Center at West was because of the academic excellence at Cranston West and the technical skills that his son could learn at the Center. His son has an interest in oceanography,

and he felt there was no school in the country that could match the oceanography program at the Center which offers an aquaculture and ocean sciences program at Cranston West. He understood there is a shortage of money in the district and understood the pressures the committee is under. However, there have been substantial cuts at the Career Technical Center over the last few years in line with the cuts in the district. Even though the resolution states there has been an increase in tuition costs, the Center has not seen those increases come back to them. As an out-of-district parent, he asked that all of the out-of-district tuition be budgeted to the Center and also amend the current resolution to divide any additional funds between the Center and Cranston West for the students.

Ann Collins, 26 Indigo Farm Road, North Smithfield – She spoke regarding Resolution No. 04-10-7. Her daughter who was attending Smithfield High School as a freshman asked that she be transferred to the Career Technical Center to study pre-engineering robotics. Mrs. Collins had never heard about the program, and she and her husband who is an engineer went with her to review the program; and they were very impressed. Her husband made the comment that his daughter would learn more in this program than he learned in his Masters program at URI. They received permission for her daughter to attend this program, and she is now a senior at the school. Because of the funding, Mr. Sidell, who is the teacher, is paying for items out of his own pocket. The students are paying out of pocket as well. Her town is paying tuition for her daughter, and it is an

injustice that others have to pay out of pocket expenses for this program. She questioned why money should be taken from such an impressive program. It will lose its prestige if this happens.

Jean Campbell, Principal/Director, Cranston Career & Technical Center – She spoke regarding Resolution No. 04-10-7. A copy of Mrs. Campbell's report to the committee is attached for the record.

Student at Career & Technical Center – She spoke regarding Resolution No. 04-10-7. She stated that she was speaking on behalf of the students enrolled in the Career &

Page 5 October 18, 2004

Technical Center and most importantly on behalf of the Child Development Program. This program is offered by the Technical Center. For the past three years, this student has been a Child Development student, and over the course of those years, many drastic changes have been made and continue to be made. Two years ago, the program was given the opportunity to hire a full-time teacher to more efficiently run the Career Technical Center pre-school. The pre-school affords a learning experience for students because they learn how to run a classroom, formulate lesson plans and deal with three, four, and five year old children. It is also a learning experience for the children because they receive the same education and same opportunities as any private pre-school

would offer. In the last year, the budget cuts have targeted the Child Development Program. The pre-school can no longer run every day because of the lack of teacher supervision. The funds for running the pre-school were cut, and the parents are now charged a fee per child in order to buy art materials, books, and other items needed to keep the pre-school running. With the increasing role of the Child Development Program and the changes and advances being made in child care, as high school students they are being deprived of new textbooks which would only help further their knowledge about being a child care facilitator. They are being deprived the technology advancements that computers provide because there is only one computer in their classroom for over 100 students to use. They are being deprived supplies to create lesson plans, bulletin boards, and other important teaching aides for the learning experience of the pre-school children and themselves as well. By decreasing the funds to the Center, it is hindering the process.

Christine Benetti, 24 Concord Avenue, Student at the Career and Technical Center – She spoke regarding Resolution No. 04-10-7. She is a third year student in the Robotics and Pre-Engineering Program. She stated that ever since she entered the program in her sophomore year, funds have been limited. She and her parents have contributed money to projects. Her teacher has also been very generous as well. The Center could really use the money. She is looking at colleges now, and much of what she has been doing in this program, college students haven't done in their first year. She could not imagine not

having the resources available. The equipment has to be updated frequently, and it is getting older. Her teacher is supposed to be teaching, but he is always writing grants to obtain extra money. Her teacher has done a great job with this program. She asked the committee to allow the Center to keep this money because they could use it.

Albert Benetti, 24 Concord Avenue, Parent of a student at the Technical Center – Mr. Benetti stated that he wished to direct his comments to Mr. Stycos specifically. He told Mr. Stycos that they go back a long time, and as far as school budgets, Mr. Stycos knew where Mr. Benetti stood on many issues. The committee had a budget and agreed to it, and it is done for the year as far as he was concerned. He has two children in the Career and Technical program, and he is not one of the parents in this community that has come before this School Committee to cry about everything that goes on

Page 6 October 18, 2004

whether it is small or large. This program is essential. His daughter and her friend, Alexis Collins, whose mother spoke previously, last year went to the Skills Competition and came in fifth in the country. This past year, they finished second and won a silver medal. This is attributed to them performing well and also to Mrs. Campbell for keeping the school together and to one of the most exceptional individuals in teaching, Mr. Sidell. He works with professors and

physicians from Brown University, and he knows what it takes. The Career and Technical Center is an exceptional program. The \$118,000 may be generated and considered extra, but the Center never receives funding for everything they need. His daughter hesitated to bring up the fact that the Robotics room has water coming in at times.

The building is in disarray to a certain point. Last year, before these two young girls went to Kansas City to compete, they did not have the updated robotics equipment they needed. Mr. Sidell wrote a grant in one week before they went away and received the robotics equipment. With Mr. Sidell's expertise, these two young students worked on the robot to compete and came in fifth. They were the only sophomore team present at the competition. He knows the school needs the \$118,000. He asked the committee to hold off on this resolution because this is an issue where he will fight to the end and go to City Hall. He will not let anyone get away with shifting money around. There are other places to shift money and other ways to deal with it. He suggested holding a special meeting to discuss this matter. He stated that this program and its building must be left alone. Let them keep their money as long as they validate everything they purchase for the school. There are too many students and too many programs that are doing an exceptional job.

Jordan Bruno, 14 Rose Street – He spoke on Resolution No. 04-10-7. Mr. Bruno told Mr. Stycos that if there is any extra money it should stay at the vocational school. He also spoke regarding Resolution No. 04-10-6. He stated that if there is something going on in sealed

minutes, there is a problem if they are an elected official member who is elected by the people. Not only should this committee take action, the state should take action. With regard to Resolution No. 04-10-7, this committee went through a very hard time. He attended the budget sessions. The dictator of this city forced this committee to make the cuts. He remembered attending one of the sessions when Mr. Cofone told those present that these were cuts that had to be made. He told the audience that they were barking up the wrong tree; he told them to go to City Hall on these matters. He has lived in Cranston all his life, and this is personal to him. The Mayor has taken away money from his children's education, and he will never forget it.

Lloyd Morse, 46 Cliffdale Avenue – He stated that he was running for Mayor. If he becomes Mayor of Cranston, he will allocate a lot of money for the schools. His children attended Cranston schools and participated in the sports programs. If it weren't for the sports programs, his children would be on the street corners right now. The students have to be funded, and everyone is a public servant. The message has to be given to the people.

Page 7 October 18, 2004

Mrs. White turned the Chair over to Mr. Cardarelli.

V. RESOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY MRS. WHITE

NO. 04-10-6 - Whereas, the Cranston School Committee holds meetings in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island State Law 42-46-4, and

Whereas, the nature of the subject matter discussed during these sessions is that of sensitivity and confidentiality relating to issues allowable in Executive Sessions by Rhode Island State Law, and

Whereas, the School Committee seals all minutes of Executive Session meetings by public vote,

Be it RESOLVED that all members of the School Committee must abide by the sealing of these minutes, and

Be it further RESOLVED that if any School Committee member discloses any information from an Executive Session meeting, he or she may be sanctioned from attending any further Executive Session meetings pertaining to the issue of which he or she has broken the confidentiality and the confidence of his or her colleagues.

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Mr. Drager that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. White told the committee that what they can discuss in

Executive Sessions is very limited. There are very few items that can be discussed in these sessions. The two most frequently discussed items are litigation and personnel. Those issues are very sensitive. When a consensored opinion or a vote is taken in Executive Session, and on certain matters a vote can be taken, the committee expects that the majority rules. However, if there is one or two who disagree, the committee cannot afford the ability for that person or those persons to go out publicly and bring out certain strategies or information that could hurt the rest of the School Committee members especially surrounding litigation. She had listened to Mr. Draycott's comments from the public. The public doesn't always have the right to know every little intricate matter when it comes to litigation. The public does have a right to know when a suit is brought, if a suit is brought. The public information is filed at the court house. That is what the public has a right to know, and that is what they will know. However, there are matters where the committee should be able to speak freely, and Executive Session is the only avenue the committee has. The committee is very limited as to what can be discussed. Within the limitation of the matters than can be discussed, they cannot have any member go out in the public and bring out information. It can become very hurtful to the rest of the elected officials who are sitting there when they are trying to pursue a matter they feel is

important. There is not a matter in front of the committee now that needs to be addressed immediately, but there have been issues over the past couple of years that could have become very tenuous for the majority of the School Committee members. Before going out of office, Mrs. White felt that the committee should be protected by a policy because there is no policy in place. It would not be up to the Chairman to keep that member or members out of the Executive Session; it would be up to a majority vote of the School Committee members. It would not be the option of the Chairman. In addition, Mrs. White noted that the Chairman is the Chairman only at a meeting. That is the only position the Chairman holds. The Chairman does have the right to formulate the agenda after the resolutions are submitted. She is a member just like every other member and so is every other chairman. She has no more authority over anything. If the majority of the School Committee felt that a member was being hurtful to a situation that would be very tenuous, they would have a right to keep that member out of Executive Session on that one issue only, and that member does have recourse. That member could take it a step further if they felt they needed to. Mrs. White further stated that she was trying to protect the School Committee as a whole in very serious and sensitive matters.

Mr. Lupino stated that he concurred with Mrs. White. He indicated that Mrs. White wished to go one step further. He felt that the essence of this resolution does not stop protecting members; it protects the School Committee in its duties as a School Committee

and ultimately protects the children. That is what the committee is here for. Some of these issues are very sensitive, and it would have not only financial but also psychological affects on some of the children if some of this information were to get into the wrong hands or misconstrued in the wrong way. He supported what Mrs. White said, but it goes beyond protecting just the members. It is the members in their role as School Committee members and ultimately the school district. He stated that he would support this resolution.

Mr. Stycos asked Mrs. White if she had any instances of this happening that she was aware of. Mrs. White stated that there were none that she could prove. Mr. Stycos asked what kind of due process procedure there would be for someone who was accused by this and what would prevent the majority of the committee from excluding the minority just because they didn't want the bother of having him around. Mrs. White stated that this was not the intent of this resolution not to have some around. There are seven elected officials on the committee. She has been on the School Committee for sixteen years, and there have been many many issues that she has stood alone on, not necessarily Executive Session issues but issues in general. Even in Executive Sessions, there have been issues where she fought alone and felt very strongly about issues, but the majority of the committee decided they didn't agree with her. Once she realized that she couldn't convince the other members or a majority thereof, she had to let it go. She couldn't take her own personal opinions out into the public or try to hurt the committee by

to bring out information she shouldn't have been bringing out. Having been in that position herself, it is not always easy to accept the majority rule. Being elected officials and being how the committee operates, the members have to accept it.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that the attorney made it clear that at no point does a member give up the Ethics Commission. The moment a member feels there is a violation, the person can go there. Mr. Stycos commented that he believed this was said in Executive Session. Mrs. White added that this is the committee's recourse or its lobbying force. Mr. Stycos asked if there would be a due process procedure and how this would work. Mrs. White gave the example that if Mr. Stycos was asked to be kept out of Executive Session on the "A" issue, the committee could not keep him out. The committee would tell him that the majority feels a particular way and there would be a due process. A person could not be eliminated out of thin air. The committee would have to approach the person indicating to this person that he has brought something out and hurting the committee at this point. Mr. Stycos responded that there is no language in the resolution that has any kind of procedure about how this would work, no standard of proof, nothing about appeal rights, so there is nothing to protect the minority against the whims of the majority. The people

have a country that is built on the principle that minority rights have to be protected whether they are on speech or anything else. He urged his colleagues to vote against the resolution.

Mr. Stycos went on further to say that as Mrs. White had said the committee has had a strong disagreement on the right to vote in Executive Session. He believed that voting in Executive Session is a violation of the Charter. The Charter very clearly says that matters can be discussed in Executive Session, but they cannot be decided in Executive Session. He disagreed with Mrs. White's opinion. Mrs. White responded that this was not her opinion. Mr. Gregory Piccirilli and Mr. Moss Sidell, two attorneys who have not discussed it between themselves but whose opinions she sought, have given the committee in writing the opinion that state law supersedes the City Charter and that the committee can take a vote in Executive Session on certain matters. They have done so under the advice of two separate attorneys, not under Jackie White's ideas. She asked Mr. Stycos not to put words in her mouth.

Mr. Palumbo stated that the open meetings laws are very clearly spelled out, and it is spelled out what can be done and what can't be done in Executive Session. Mr. Stycos already knows this. This resolution is putting on record what the committee knows are acceptable standards that whatever is discussed in Executive Session, especially after the minutes have been sealed, cannot be discussed in public. It is very clear that from time to time things leak

out, things that cannot be proven, that work against what the committee is trying to do for the school system. He finds nothing wrong with this resolution whatsoever. He did not see where this has to be spelled out in such detail to satisfy Mr. Stycos or the gentleman who spoke. No one on this committee ever abuses the rights of someone else. It hasn't happened, and he doesn't see it happening in the

Page10 October 18, 2004

future. There are many laws that protect the individual, and he was sure that Mr. Stycos was aware of them. These laws are to protect these people, and he was sure that if anyone feels they are harmed they would then take one of these laws and run with it. That is not what this particular resolution is talking about. It is simply putting a structure down that has to be put down so that it goes along with the accepted behavior for what happens in Executive Session.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that the open meetings laws are there. They are there to protect the individual. There are a whole host of them that are there, and any elected official worth their salt is well aware of them. When someone is voted out of a meeting, that person will pursue that avenue the next day to file a complaint to get their day in court and actively pursue it. It is very naive to think that someone is not going to show up the very next day to file their complaint. One does not run for office to be shut out of meetings. In fact, this

committee had an open meetings complaint filed against them several years ago. No one spends their time walking the streets all summer to be elected to office to be shut out of meetings. Mr. Cardarelli went on further to comment that tomorrow morning Mr. Stycos will be down at the Ethics Commission with this motion submitting this before the Ethics Commission, and this will undoubtedly have its day in court. They may find this ruling bad, and the next School Committee may have to deal with revising this resolution. This committee is not perfect, but those two things will happen. Whether it is this School Committee or the next School Committee, and someone has been voted to sit out of a meeting because they violated the trust of the next seven people who will sit on this committee, they will be down pursuing their rights before the Commission.

Mr. Stycos noted that while the committee has an opinion from Mr. Sidell that they can vote in private they also have an opinion from the City Solicitor that they cannot vote in Executive Session. He has not seen a clear written opinion from Mr. Piccirilli. He has seen an opinion but not a clear one. He urged again that the committee vote against this resolution. He felt that this was operating on that someone could be removed if they are hurtful, whatever that means. The committee is being told it is okay if they ban someone from meetings because they can appeal. That is being guilty until proven innocent as opposed to the system of justice in this country where one is innocent until proven guilty. This resolution has not been

thought through. There is no due process, and he urged the members to vote against it.

Mrs. White stated to Mr. Stycos that if the shoe fits wear it because no one else feels threatened by this resolution except him.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Stycos opposed.

Mr. Cardarelli returned the Chair to Mrs. White.

Page 11 October 18, 2004

SPONSORED BY MR. STYCOS

NO. 04-10-7 – Whereas, vocational school tuitions have risen consistently over the last five years, and

Whereas, the Cranston School Department's textbook replacement accounts are under funded, and

Whereas, at the time of the passage of the school budget, \$1.7 million was anticipated in vocational school tuitions for 2003-2004, but by the end of the fiscal year \$1.818 million was collected,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee adjusts anticipated revenue from vocational school tuitions in the 2004-2005

budget from \$1.7 million to \$1.818 million and appropriates an additional \$40,000 to the high school textbook replacement account, \$38,000 to the middle school replacement account and \$40,000 to the elementary school textbook replacement account.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos thanked the people who spoke regarding this Resolution even though they were opposed to it because they raised some very important issues. He appreciated their comments.

Mr. Stycos asked if there was any length of time between when the vocational school receives the money and the tuitions that come in. It was his understanding that tuition money came in to the general fund and then the School Committee disburses that money as it sees fit through the budgetary process. He also asked if certain money was reserved for the vocational school out of the tuitions. Mr. Balducci responded that there was no direct correlation between the revenues collected by the vocational school and the expenditures of the vocational school. The outside revenue tuitions category is just one of the revenue sources the district recognizes during the budgeting and counts on that to support the entire school district. Some of that revenue is used to pay salaries or personnel at the vocational school, supplies, utilities, and is a part of the overall revenue that is used to support the budget.

Mr. Stycos asked if the Career and Technical Center had its own textbook account, and Mr. Balducci indicated that it did. Mr. Stycos stated that Mr. Benetti made a comment about the building leaking. He asked if the building was still owned by the state, and Mr. Balducci responded that there was some discussion about having the vocational school buildings revert to the municipalities where they were located, and that bill was defeated at the state level. There is some talk about having a bond referendum on the November ballot statewide that needs to address vocational school buildings that are in disarray. Mr. Balducci further commented that for any expenditure over \$300 the state has to be

Page 12 October 18, 2004

made aware of it, and they have to pay the bill. A roof is estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Stycos distributed to the committee a list of the actual tuitions received for the past five years for the vocational school. A copy of this information is attached for the record. He noted that Mrs. Campbell had indicated earlier that the tuition rates have gone up steadily. At the time that the committee adopted its budget, the final tuition figure was not available. At the time the budget was adopted, the \$1.7 million figure that is in the budget was a decent number, but since then, the actual tuitions for 03-04 have come in at \$1.8 million

and not \$1.7 million. This Resolution says that the committee is adjusting its prediction of the future based on better information that the district is going to be getting an extra at least \$118,000 and that the School Committee would allocate that money to various accounts in the budget document. He picked textbooks because there are major textbook needs in the schools. One criticism of the Resolution, which Mrs. Campbell pointed out and is right on target, is that there should be some amount in this Resolution for the vocational school because they have a separate textbook account. Under this Resolution the committee would be adjusting the revenue figure of the \$118,000 to reflect more current reality and allocating that money in the budget to the textbook accounts because money is needed for textbooks and this is an opportunity to set aside some money for them.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that the committee should keep in mind that this money is based upon students attending the school. During the course of the year, for a myriad of reasons, the students decide to leave the school, and administration never knows exactly what that amount is going to be until the end of the year. Mrs. Ciarlo stated that she would not recommend taking any money at this particular point and spending it. Administration and the committee doesn't know what kind of a winter there will be or what other costs will come forward. The committee is hearing tonight an example that could be taken at every school. There are not adequate resources to be able to fund programs the way they should. It use to be \$90.00 per pupil

expenditure for regular education secondary students and \$125.00 for the career and technical students which was based on the theory that the technical students used more hands-on materials, and, therefore, needed greater supplies in order to run the school. She noted to the committee that the per pupil expenditure accounts have been cut back to the 2001 figure. This year it is 60% of what the district had in 2001. There are inadequate resources in all of the schools. They should have the computer labs, textbooks, and resources. She asked that the money be left where it is to see how the district makes it through the year. Even though the students attend the Career and Technical Center, they are still enrolled as students at Cranston West.

The English, science, social studies, mathematics, and resources must be provided to the students, and that is part of what the tuition money is for. It would be unwise to think that the district had the money only to find out that the district spent money and would be looking for it in the spring. The committee and administration need to support Cranston Public Schools,

Page 13 October 18, 2004

and the people who sometimes come to the meetings and tell them to do it are the people on the other hand who want to criticize them when they come forward with a budget. When the committee and administration said that the budget wouldn't work that well, this is now an example of it; and it is not fair.

Mr. Cardarelli moved to amend this Resolution as follows:

Strike the first line: Whereas, vocational school tuition have risen consistently over the last five years, and

Keep the second: Whereas, the Cranston School Department's textbook replacement accounts are under funded, and

Strike the entire third: Whereas, at the time of the passage of the school budget, \$1.7 million was anticipated in vocational school tuitions for 2003-2004, but by the end of the fiscal year \$1.818 million was collected,

Change the last paragraph to read: Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee adjusts anticipated revenue in the 2004-2005 budget from \$79,850 and appropriate to the additional replacement account to the textbook and technology replacement account if appropriated from the City Council.

Mr. Drager seconded the motion.

Mr. Lupino stated that he understood Mr. Cardarelli's amendment, but asked what his amendment was based on. He indicated to Mr. Stycos that he had given the committee figures and the paper stated "actual vocational tuitions". He asked him where he had obtained this information, and Mr. Stycos responded that he had taken the figures

from old budget documents. Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Balducci that Mr. Stycos had listed as actual vocational tuitions for 03-04 of \$1,818,022 and asked him if this was correct. Mr. Balducci said that Mr. Stycos was correct. Mr. Lupino asked if those were actual revenues in hand, and Mr. Balducci responded that some of the money is set up as receivables because some of the communities are late in paying the district so he may not get the money right away. Mr. Lupino added that in the past the district has had to go to communities such as Johnston to get monies owed to the district in the middle of the year. He believed that they owed the district approximately \$1 million. Mr. Balducci responded that it happened before he came to Cranston Public Schools. Mr. Lupino asked if this Resolution would be akin to him saying that he would go out tomorrow and refinance his house and that he would take out more debt so that he can spend more money but not have money to pay that debt. Mr. Balducci commented that it is a projection which means that all outside placements need to stay at the Career and Technical Center for the entire year in order for the district to collect either \$1.7 million, \$1.8 million or somewhere in between. Mr. Lupino asked if the premise of this

Page 14 October 18, 2004

resolution was moot because the district doesn't have the money. He stated that the committee would be spending money it doesn't have. Mr. Balducci responded that as of today the district does not have

\$1.7 million.

Mr. Stycos called for a point of order. He stated that on an amendment, one cannot completely change the intention of the resolution. The committee has some notice requirements and public speaking requirements where people couldn't have spoken on Mr. Cardarelli's amendment which is totally different than his proposal. Robert's Rules of Order state that one cannot make an amendment that completely changes the resolution.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that he disagreed with Mr. Stycos. Mr. Cardarelli commented that Mr. Stycos proposed a budget adjustment from one account to another account, and he was making a budget adjustment.

Mr. Stycos's was to make a tuition change from the Career and Technical Center which is based on numbers pulled from tuition accounts, and Mr. Cardarelli was taking his from a document that the City Council is proposing to make. He felt that his was a more valid document than Mr. Stycos's; he was making a budget adjustment. There was an advertised budget adjustment, and it has more validity than Mr. Stycos's. Mr. Stycos stated that he would not argue that Mr. Cardarelli's had more validity. The point is that Mr. Cardarelli could offer a resolution that states what he said previously, and then the public would have an opportunity to address the resolution at a public meeting. There is a resolution on the agenda that has to do with a specific line item of the public, projected revenue for vocational tuition, and placing it in textbooks. Mr. Cardarelli is

proposing to change that to money received from the City Council which is a totally different revenue source. Mr. Stycos went on further to say that this \$79,000 that Mr. Cardarelli is referring to is an amount of money that Mayor and Mr.

Stycos suggested going to middle school sports. Other people disagreed. The committee has never been able to have the resolution that he put forward to discuss. The public has not had a chance ahead of time to see it; it cannot be popped on people. The public speaking portion is over, and this is a kick and run around the public meeting process.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that where Mr. Stycos wanted to put virtually the same amount of money in the same accounts, and Mr. Cardarelli was putting the same amount of money from the money the City Council said they were going to give the school department, and instead of taking it from the career and technical account take the money the City Council gives to the school department with no strings attached and use that money.

Mrs. White suggested that the committee take a five-minute recess to review Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Cardarelli objected.

Mr. Drager told both Mr. Cardarelli and Mr. Stycos that they were being premature because the district does not have the money as of yet. There is an ordinance being

presented from the City Council, and the district doesn't have the money yet. When the money does come forward, that is when the committee will have an opportunity to decide what they want to do with the money. He felt the committee should wait to see the appropriation first.

Mrs. White asked Mr. Drager if he was asking Mr. Cardarelli to pull his amendment. Mr. Drager replied that he was referring to both the amendment and the resolution. Mrs. White stated that the committee would vote on the resolution one way or the other.

Mr. Lupino agreed that Mr. Stycos's resolution was based on anticipation; the district doesn't have the money yet. Based on that, Mr. Stycos should remove his resolution. However, Mr. Cardarelli's distinction of anticipated revenue if the committee gets the money, the committee could then do something. Mr. Cardarelli qualified and quantified his amendment if the district gets the money from the City Council. He could see no reason not to vote.

Mr. Palumbo asked Mr. Balducci if it were true that the district dropped eleven students from the enrollment at the vocational

school, and Mr. Balducci responded that his office in conjunction with Mrs. Campbell's office are trying to finalize enrollment figures. He did receive a memo from Mrs. Campbell's office on Friday indicating that on her projections the district will receive \$1,756,000. His office is showing \$55,000 less than this number. At the present time, whether his office or Mrs. Campbell's office is correct, it doesn't look that the district will generate \$118,000 more than budget. The figures can change over night. Mr. Palumbo added that this soft money may not exist. Mr. Balducci added that the money moves from the Career and Technical Center back to a student's home school. One cannot make this resolution concrete. Mr. Palumbo stated that it was more likely that the district would get the money that Mr. Cardarelli was referring to than the soft money that Mr. Stycos is trying to generate from the vocational school. He referred to Mrs. Ciarlo's earlier comments that the winter coming up, the high oil prices, and the problems the district may have with Blue Cross, and it would be fool heartedly to take money the district doesn't have and spend it on textbooks. However, Mr. Cardarelli had said that if it was reasonable to use that money, the district could. He knew the first resolution did not make sense because the money isn't there.

Mr. Drager asked Mr. Balducci that if the money were available to purchase textbooks when would the district purchase the books. Mr. Balducci responded that depending on the need he would start the process immediately, but he could not guarantee when the textbooks would make their way into the classrooms. It is all based on how

quickly the manufacturer can get them out. Mr. Drager added that the district would not be getting

Page 16 October 18, 2004

a discount on the books because of the time of year when they would be ordered. He also indicated that there was approximately \$1 million cut from textbooks in the appropriation.

Mr. Lupino referred to comments made by the public as to what was needed at the school, and in anticipation to one of the capital budget hearings and the state was going to turn over the vocational center to the school department for \$1.00, an assessment of the building was done. Mr. Zisseron commented that the assessed repairs amounted to \$1.2 million. The original appropriation was \$1.8 million, and the school department had to reduce it to \$1.2 million. Mr. Lupino stated that if the school department wanted to take over the vocational school and make all the necessary repairs to the building it would cost \$1.8 million, but the Department of Education limits the district to \$1.2 million in repairs. Mrs. White noted that the committee knows that all of the schools need money, and that is not the intention of this resolution.

Mrs. White called for a five minute recess at 8:45 p.m.

Mrs. White called the meeting back to order at 8:52 p.m.

Mrs. White read from page 92 of Robert's Rules of Order to clarify this resolution and amendment. After reading Robert's Rules, Mrs. White stated that any time there is a question about whether or not an amendment is germane, the president can let the members decide by a vote. Mrs. White stated that she would take a vote as to whether or not the committee felt that Mr. Cardarelli's amendment was germane to the resolution on the agenda. Mr. Cardarelli stated for the record that Mr. Stycos was proposing that his projected revenues from the tuitions be put into the textbook accounts; he was proposing to use the revenues from the City Council and put it into the same accounts provided the district gets that money. He felt there was a big difference between the example of having a dance to painting a clubhouse.

Mrs. White asked each member whether or not they felt the amendment was germane to the main resolution. The vote was tie with Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Lupino, and Mrs. White voting yes; Mr. Drager, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Stycos voted no.

Mr. Cardarelli withdrew his motion to the amendment.

Mr. Drager withdrew his second to the motion on the amendment.

Mr. Cardarelli withdrew his second on the resolution.

Mrs. White called for a second to the resolution, and there was none.

This Resolution died.

Page 17 October 18, 2004

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 04-10-8 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal, Cranston Career & Technical Center, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Mr. Drager that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution was to recommend the appointment of an Assistant Principal at the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. It was Mrs. Ciarlo's pleasure to recommend Lynda C. Wagner as the Assistant Principal/Director of the Career and Technical Center. Lynda has a Bachelors Degree from the Berklee College of Music, a Masters Degree from Providence College in Science Secondary Education, CAGS Degree from Rhode Island College, and post graduate courses in education administration from Boston University. She began her career at the Davies Career and Technical High School in 1983 as a teacher, department chairperson, and supervisor of federal programs and remained there until 2000.

From 2000 to 2002, she was director of the Mt. Hope Bay Academy and coordinator of professional development for the Bristol Warren Regional School District. From 2002 to the present Lynda has been the director of the Alternative At-Risk Program and Student Activities Director for Smithfield High School. Lynda is a very competent individual and has much experience in career and technical education. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended Lynda to the committee without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-10-9 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis:

Llewellyn Cole General Subject, K-12

Maria Fortune Elementary

Katherine Doorley Elementary

Brooke Lemme Elementary

Kathleen Hazard Physical Education and Health

Lori Lake General Subject, K-12

Renee Archambault Elementary

Corine Tate Art, K-12

Page 18 October 18, 2004

Morgan Bina Elementary; Special Education, Elementary/Middle

Melissa Thornlimb General Subject, K-12

Yacob Ali General Subject, K-12

Alysia Blinn Elementary

Louis Turchetta General Subject (K-12)

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-10-10 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Anne Favali, Guidance

Itinerant

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

Barbara DeRobbio, Social Studies

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that Barbara DeRobbio is leaving after 29 years of service as a social studies teacher and Anne Favali is leaving after 31-1/2 years as an itinerant guidance counselor. They have both contributed much to Cranston Public Schools, and Mrs. Ciarlo wished them well in their retirement.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-10-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be reappointed as athletic coaches:

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST

Jessica Greene Assistant Girls Basketball

Paul Giarrusso Assistant Boys Wrestling

Christopher Tribelli Head Boys Wrestling

Robert Bouchard Head Girls Swimming

Robert LaBanca Head Girls Indoor Track

Page 19 October 18, 2004

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST CONTINUED

Lauren Brown Head Girls Basketball

Joseph Rotz Assistant Boys Hockey

Carl Bishop Head Boys Indoor Track

Joseph Splendorio Head Freshman Boys Basketball

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Wayne Lindberg Assistant Boys Hockey

Richard Perrotta Head Girls Basketball

Sheila Lagasse Head Girls Indoor Track

James Moretti Head Boys Basketball

Matthew Claeson Head Boys Wrestling

Craig Sacco Head Boys Hockey

James Royal Assistant Boys Wrestling

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-10-12 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as an athletic coach:

Thomas Short, Assistant, Boys' Basketball, Cranston High School West

Step – 1

Class – C

Playing Competition – Cranston High School West

Experience – Scout and Summer League, Cranston High School West

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-10-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Francine White, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Appointment – September 21, 2004

Fiscal Note: 32947179-151100

Steven B. Platt, CNA Instructor

Alternative Education

Effective Date of Employment – September 30, 2004

Fiscal Note: 51362142-512100

Elaine Delaney, ESL Instructor

Alternative Education

Effective Date of Appointment – October 4, 2004

Fiscal Note: 57062129-512100

Janis Baker, Technical Assistant Health Occupations

Cranston Area Career & Technical Center

Effective Date of Appointment – October 19, 2004

Fiscal Note: 17430614-514000

Louis Bianco, Four-hour Custodian

Plant

Effective Date of Appointment – October 19, 2004

Fiscal Note: 11847481-518200

Caroline Ruess, Outreach Worker

21st Century Grant – Bain Middle School

Effective Date of Appointment – October 18, 2004

Fiscal Note: 53115150 515000

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. White noted the additional name of Caroline Ruess from the Addendum to the Agenda.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-10-14 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

SECRETARY

Linda Staudt

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Maureen Jackson

Champa Patel

Grace Arias

Basilia Otanez

Page 21 October 18, 2004

BUS DRIVER

Mary Fiske

CUSTODIAN

Adam Park

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Drager and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-10-15 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Patricia Blanchette, Four-hour Cook

Effective Date: December 30, 2004

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that it was highly unusual to have a tenure of some twenty years in the Food Service Program. Usually it is twenty minutes. Mrs. Ciarlo thanked Patricia for her dedication and hard work.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-10-16 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Lori A. Reid, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date – September 17, 2004

**Susan Tierney, Technical Assistant
Cranston Area Career & Technical Center
Effective Date – July 7, 2004**

**Joyce D'Antuono, Teacher Assistant
Cranston High School West
Effective Date – October 8, 2004**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously
carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

Page 22 October 18, 2004

BUSINESS

**NO.04-10-17 - RESOLVED, that the Administration be authorized to
establish the following tuition rates for the 2004-2005 school year:**

Half-day Kindergarten \$ 4,994

Grades 1-12 \$ 9,989

Special Education \$32,554

Career and Technical Center – Regular \$10,939

Career and Technical Center – Resource (1-2 classes) \$21,747

Career and Technical Center – Self-Contained (3-5 classes) \$32,554

Sanders Academy \$31,424

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos asked if the district takes outside students into the Sanders Academy or if a schedule of tuition rates is established for every institution. Mr. Balducci responded that normally the district doesn't bring those students in, but because this is a program where the district is trying to bring back tuition students, it is on an as-space available basis. Last year there was one student from the Pawtucket School Department who was a part of the Sanders Program, and it was nice to have a tuition rate established to charge to the Pawtucket School Department.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-10-18 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Office Supplies in the amount of \$10,997.13

Number of bids issued 23

Number of bids received 10

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-10-19 - RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee accept the 2003-2004 Fox River In\$ite (formerly known as Coopers & Lybrand) Expenditure Report as required by Article 31.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

Page 23 October 18, 2004

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 04-10-7-20 – Whereas, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. requires that the Cranston School Committee adopt the Mission Statement for Cranston High School East,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee adopt the following Mission Statement:

The mission of CHSE, a partnership consisting of students, teachers, parents, and community members, is to educate all students in a safe, challenging, and mutually respectful environment, which will enable them to develop and demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking problem solving, and communications skills. The CHSE student and subsequent graduate will utilize these skills to become a respectful and productive contributor to both the school and

community.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Frederick if there was a reason why he didn't include administration in the list for the partnership. He asked Mr. Frederick if he should entertain a motion to change it to include staff. Mr. Frederick responded that administrators are included with teachers.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-10-21 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Field Trip of Long Duration be authorized:

Christopher Lawlor, teacher at Cranston High School West, and five students who are members of the Future Business Leaders of America Club to travel to Chicago, Illinois to attend and participate in the FBLA Regional Fall Leadership Conference from November 12, 2004 to November 14, 2004.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Drager noted to the committee that in addition to the \$500 that RISO Products of Boston was donating to the school department, Mr. Scherza was matching the \$500 contribution. Mr. Scherza is donating the first \$500 to the EPIC Program and the matching \$500 to the Sanders Academy Program. Mrs. White thanked Mr. Scherza for bringing this money into Cranston Public Schools through his efforts.

Page 24 October 18, 2004

VI. SPEAKERS – Non-agenda Items

Albert Benetti, 24 Concord Avenue – He indicated to Mrs. Ciarlo that she and Mr. Benetti go back a long time also. He further commented that Mrs. Ciarlo said that people who come to the meetings who want more money for the schools should pay attention when they criticize the school system. He further commented that he has been a critic of this school system and city government and of anything that has its moments when it is not proper, not right, or something is not correct. He further said that he is a scientist in a scientific field. One of the things that amazes him about the public school system is that people never know how to take criticism. In the work he is in, one can do research and submit their papers. It can be sent back telling the individual to do more experiments or it is not proper. In his field, they deal with criticism when it is proper. He has never in all his years

before this committee ever picked on any of the committee members on an individual level. He has looked at the committee's budgets and the contracts, and he doesn't agree with some of the things in the school department's or the city's contracts. He has always been supportive of teachers, but if people in this school system can't take it when he mentions that there should be a co-pay or adjustments made, he questioned if the person is called a critic. He felt it was improper. He is a resident of this city and a parent, and he has every right to express his opinion properly and fairly without any personal comments from anyone. The bottom line is that if the Superintendent doesn't appreciate his comments, then that is fine. The Superintendent works for this school system which is his school system and all the residents and parents of this city. This is not Europe. The government does not come down to the people; the government answers to the people. He told Mrs. Ciarlo that he has always been proper to her, but he will come to the meetings and criticize the school system when it is not right, and he will fight for his children when he feels they are being short changed. He further commented that he pulled his youngest child out of the school system because the elementary school she was attending is not the same, and it is not just due to finance but because of other things that happen in public education. The rest of the people in the real world who are dealing with the economy for the past few years have adjusted. If people at this meeting feel this offensive, they have to learn to live with it just as he has learned to live with it when comments are made. The officials have to learn to respect the people

as they have learned to respect the officials.

Bill O'Donnell, Parkside Drive – He indicated that he was coming before the committee regarding an issue that came before the committee approximately two years ago, and the issue has not been resolved or eliminated which is Mr. Steven Stycos's failure to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of this meeting or any meeting, for that matter. There is a state law that any school or class that starts with the Pledge of Allegiance being said this meeting must be started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. O'Donnell stated that he is the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign War of the United States and represents approximately 8,000 veterans in this state. He is also

Page 25 October 18, 2004

President of the Cranston Veterans Council and represents twelve organizations within the state. He is the father of three children who attend schools, a taxpayer, and a veteran. He is on active duty because of mobilization in Rhode Island. Every day he goes to work he has the flag of his country on his shoulder. One of the teachers from this school department is one of the soldiers in his unit that has been sent to Iraq approximately four days ago, and on his uniform is the flag of this country. For the soldiers who have died and come back to this country, the greatest honor given to them is to place a flag on their coffin. The last thing the family receives when a soldier

is buried is the folded flag of the United States. That flag embodies everything people believe in. On September 11th, when this country was attacked, the one thing that the entire country decided to do was to fly the flag in numbers never seen before. To have Mr. Stycos stand before everyone and feign saying the Pledge of Allegiance when the rest of the people do, his opinions have been public record for the past few years. This is a lack of performance of his duties. This is not the place to fail to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. O'Donnell went on to say that he, for one, will not vote for Mr. Stycos in this election, and this is his opinion and not the opinion of the Veterans of Foreign War or the Cranston Veterans Council. It is his opinion and many of his constituents, parents, teachers, and students of this city. In this election year, the people of this city need to vote their hearts and souls for what the flag stands for.

Student who resides on Selma Street – She was speaking on behalf of the students of Western Hills Middle School who participated in middle school sports. These students believe that there should be Interscholastic League sports. It keeps the kids off the streets. Sports keep kids involved in school. It is a known fact that by keeping kids involved, they won't get involved in drugs. By having sports, the kids have more school spirit by attending the school games. The students have taken into consideration that money is a problem, and they have had fundraisers such as bake sales and car washes to help raise the money needed for sports. By having sports, children are taught responsibility, they are kept safe, it shows them

unity, and helps children learn team work. The wrestlers have been state champions for two years in a row. The girls' soccer team was also state champions as well as the girls' basketball team. By looking at the showcase, one can see how high achieving Western Hills has been as well as the other middle schools. She believed that the committee should carry on the tradition of Western Hills and the other middle schools participating in Interscholastic League sports.

Michaela Rose, Student at Western Hills Middle School – She stated that she was happy to play sports at Western Hills. When the committee took away school sports, it affected the students at the school. Sports give the students something to look forward to at the end of the day. Intramural sports are great, and she is grateful for them, but it is almost like recreational sports. There is no competition. Sports keep kids physically active. Even though it is her last year at Western Hills, she would like to see the kids in

Page 26 October 18, 2004

future years have sports. She hopes the committee will make the right choice regarding sports.

Gianna Valletta, 27 Vinton Avenue – She stated that in addition to the students looking forward to playing sports, they look forward to the Pep Rally at the end of the year which is so much fun for the

students. Without sports, the students don't have anything to look forward to at the end of the year. The students are asking for sports to come back. She and Michaela Rose are the cross country co-captains.

Mrs. White thanked those students who spoke about sports for coming to this meeting.

David Marrone, 36 Case Avenue – He asked the committee to support the various middle schools having club interscholastic teams. These teams would raise their own money. They are not asking for money but asking for approval to have club teams.

Mr. Lupino stated to Mr. Marrone that he had called Mr. Lupino's home several times. They never spoke except through voice mail. He told him that he should contact someone at Bain Middle School because, if it is done, it should be done throughout the city.

Mr. Marrone commented that it would be a club as any school has different clubs. He could not force the parents at Bain to come up with the resources. He can only do what he can do at Western Hills. The parents at Western Hills feel the same way. It is not a team but rather a club.

Mr. Drager asked Mr. Marrone if he had contacted anyone at Bain, and Mr. Marrone responded that he didn't know who the person would be

to contact.

Mr. Cardarelli suggested having Mr. Marrone speak with Mr. Traficante. Mr. Traficante commented that he did speak with Mr. Marrone a few weeks ago. In addition, Mr. Traficante spoke with Mr. Caldarone at Western Hills who was the wrestling coach at Western Hills last year. He did not speak with Mr. Burns, the coach at Park View, but did speak with Mr. Rico, the coach at Bain. Mr. Traficante does understand there can be individual competitors for sports. He explained this in detail. In his explanation, he stated that he had spoken with Mr. Allan Yankiewicz, Director of Middle School Wrestling in Coventry, to obtain verification at the middle school level. He told him that the only reason North Kingstown is allowed to have a club sport is due to the fact that there are two or three middle schools in that area that do not have enough kids participating to create a wrestling. They allow the three schools to come together to create one club. The difference between what North Kingstown does and what Bain, Park View, and Western Hills would want to do is that if there is enough interest at each school, they would want to stand on their own. This would not allow them to compete as a club. Even if they had a club or intramurals where the students compete against

Page 27 October 18, 2004

one another, they can send only three individuals to the states. If there are approximately thirty-six kids competing at Western Hills at a

club level, only three could compete at the state level.

Mr. Marrone stated that Mr. Traficante was incorrect. He indicated that he spoke with Mr. Yankiewicz about this very issue. The school could have a club that falls under the direction of the principal, and they could send sixteen wrestlers as a regular team, and they would be able to win a state championship. Interscholastic Sports does not care if a school calls itself a club or a team. There are two reasons to have a club. If there is not enough interest at a number of different schools in a district, they can come together. Or, if this is a school that doesn't have a team but has a couple of athletes who want to piggyback on to another school system. In Portsmouth, they don't have enough kids for wrestling so they piggyback on with Middletown. It is true that they can send only three wrestlers to the state, but a team can send a full sixteen members or more. They pay a \$10.00 entrance fee. Mr. Traficante responded that in order to submit that team at the state wrestling level, the middle school interscholastic fee must be paid per school which now entitles every team to compete.

A long discussion ensued regarding this subject. In his remarks, Mr. Marrone indicated that the principal at Park View has talked to Mr. Burns, and he has declined to coach because he won't be paid. He has someone who is certified and will coach for nothing. Mrs. White stated that she was concerned for the teacher contract and the insurance coverage. Mr. Marrone responded that the Interscholastic

League covers insurance during the match. Mr. Traficante added that if there is an injury fund event, the League will cover anything beyond a person's insurance coverage.

Mr. Stycos suggested that the interested parties meet to iron out these issues. He suggested that Mr. Marrone, Mr. Traficante, a representative from Western Hills, and a member from administration discuss all issues regarding this matter. Mr. Lupino suggested that Mr. Traficante obtain a definitive ruling from the Interscholastic League about what constitutes club and what constitutes a team. Mrs. White stated that it should be done on a timely basis. She asked that the School Committee be kept informed. Mr. Drager added that he would not want to see people off on their own. Mrs. White further commented that she wanted Bain Middle School included in the discussion.

Mr. Traficante said that once the \$200 fee is paid, the team is in. A club would have to raise the money for umpires, transportation, equipment, and supplies, and could play as a team. Mrs. White wants to see all the information in black and white. She asked that the parties involved meet as quickly as they can.

Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Marrone if is this was the way he would like to see things happen, and Mr. Marrone responded that he would like to see sports funding, but as long as he could have the committee's support to make it happen, it would be fine. Mrs. White commented to Mr. Marrone that no one on this committee wanted to eliminate sports or anything at all.

Robert Murphy, 1 Narragansett Road – He stated that he was attending this meeting to back up the Veterans of Foreign War. The Veterans of Foreign War said that it was the Cranston Veterans of Foreign War who noticed Mr. Stycos. That is not true. It came to the attention of the National Veterans of Foreign War. His friend who is the National Director of Foreign War brought it to his attention. At this meeting, he was representing the six young Marines who also attended this meeting. For those who are not familiar with the Young Marine Corps Program, it is the DARE Program for the Marine Corps. Not only do they teach them drug and alcohol resistance, they teach them history, patriotism and leadership. They get to see how the School Committee works and how city government works. These six young people are the senior Young Marines in this area. They represent over 400 Young Marines, and they are their leaders in the southern New England regimen. They find it deplorable and disgusting that Mr. Stycos represents school children of this district and does not stand salute the flag. He told Mr. Stycos to love it or leave it.

Frank Flynn, President, Cranston Teachers' Alliance – He spoke regarding the middle school sports issue. He stated that he was an advocate of sports, and he participated as a student in Interscholastic League sports. The budget cuts that brought the school system to this position profoundly impacted many of his members including the twenty-one teacher assistants who are still employed. If there is a group of students who are at Western Hills, whether they are called a club or a team, it is still a team of kids from Western Hills, and they should be coached by one of those teacher/coaches that the CTA also represents. Those people have lost a certain amount of income that many of them relied upon. Anything that is done contrary to that probably will be very problematic from CTA's standpoint.

Jordan Bruno, 14 Rose Street – He commented that he was glad that someone was trying to think of alternatives for sports. He was glad that Mrs. White had mentioned Bain Middle School. His daughter plays soccer on one of CLCF's select teams. If this goes through, and Park View and Western Hills have a club and his girl is not treated equally, he will have an issue. He was an all state wrestler for both Bain and Cranston West. He played hockey as well. If there aren't enough students at Bain, he would hope his daughter could piggyback on Western Hills or Park View. He agreed having a committee to look into this issue as Mr. Stycos has suggested earlier.

Mr. Lupino added that approximately eight years ago, there was a club ice hockey team. It consisted of kids from Bain, Park View and

Western Hills. They sought their own funds and competed against other teams in the state who were middle school age kids. There

Page 29 October 18, 2004

was no involvement with the schools; it was a private group. Mr. Bruno also mentioned that Bain Middle School is celebrating their 75th Anniversary. He asked how the plaque was coming along for Mrs. White.

Mr. Traficante stated that he has nothing to do with intramural sports. It is up to the principals at each school to decide what they want to offer. He would be happy to get them together, but he has no control what the schools offer for intramural sports. Mrs. White asked Mr. Scherza to take care of this issue.

Mr. Cardarelli thanked the Young Marines and their leader for attending this meeting and expressing their opinions and patriotism. He told them that if any of them were Cranston residents to actively pursue the JROTC Program at Cranston East. Mrs. White told the Young Marines that she was very proud of their leadership and hoped they would pursue their leadership roles into their adult lives.

Barbara Valletta, 27 Vinton Avenue – She thanked the children who spoke at this meeting. They did a great job in explaining the sports issue because it is so important to them. She asked the committee if

they understood the need and the importance of the sports to the children and asked why it was cut from the middle schools.

Mr. Cardarelli referred to Mr. Traficante's report that was given earlier in the meeting regarding the number of children in the middle schools who are participating in intramural sports. They have more than doubled the number of children in the middle schools who are participating in intramural sports. There are children who need to be off the street during those crucial hours when they may get into trouble. They have doubled the number of students who are participating versus those who were participating in Interscholastic League sports. The only difference is that rather than playing Pawtucket and Westerly, they are playing Bain, Western Hills and Park View in their local area. There are more kids involved in a larger program after school in those crucial hours. Mrs. Valletta asked why sports were cut from the middle school level, and Mr. Cardarelli responded that the district is so grossly under funded in textbooks, supplies, and technology, that when cuts had to be made, they were so damaging, that the committee cut teacher aides. They cut \$1 million in textbooks. When the committee changed middle school sports from Interscholastic League to intramurals, it was one of the lesser cuts to the district. Mrs. Valletta asked if the committee expected the girls to compete against the boys in flag football, and Mr. Cardarelli responded that there are there are other alternatives for the students. Mr. Lupino reminded Mrs. Valletta that the original School Committee proposal was to cut all sports. Mr. Traficante

added that Western Hills is offering flag football, cross country, and soccer. Mrs. Valletta reiterated that it was wrong to expect girls to play wrestling, flag football, and soccer with the boys. Mr. Cardarelli asked Mrs. Valletta if there was support among the parents for club sports. She felt that there was support. She indicated that there was a rumor that the children or parents would have to pay a fee of \$200 to play a club sport.

Page 30 October 18, 2004

Mrs. White stated that during the budget sessions this dialogue came up. There was a discussion regarding communities that charge parents to have their children play sports. This committee made drastic cuts in the academic areas, and sports took the least hit. People thought the committee was crying wolf when they asked the public to help them get the money. Now, things are starting to happen. It is too late for this year. There are things that must be reinstituted in the budget. She told Mrs. Valletta that as much as she wants her child to play sports, the judge in court told the committee that they didn't have to offer sports. The committee had to offer only an adequate education. Cranston offers its students a very well-rounded education, and the test scores show it. She felt that sports along with the arts and music are all an integral part of the education

process. People cannot have it both ways. Either the people have to support the budget or they have to accept the repercussions of a

budget that is \$3 million under funded. The district just can't do it any more. The people who come to the School Committee meetings to speak about the budget are preaching to the choir. The committee needs the people to stand up in April that they wanted this school system to be funded so that the children can have what they should have. The people need to talk to the City Council that they want an appropriate education for their children.

Mrs. Valletta referred to the comments made concerning Mr. Stycos not saluting the flag. She stated that anyone's right to salute the flag or not to salute the flag, to drink coffee or not to drink coffee, vote or not to vote, is their human right. She has family in the Guards and in high offices in the Army.

Mr. Marrone stated that the difference between intramural and Interscholastic League sports is that intramurals are not more than a gym class. The students are getting instruction in how to compete in sports. To say that intramural sports and Interscholastic League sports are the same is incorrect. Mr. Cardarelli responded that given the situation of cutting out all sports or going to intramurals, the option of keeping intramural sports was a fair one. The majority of the committee members felt that eliminating all sports was too drastic. The result was to go to intramural sports for middle schools. The committee knows that they are not competing on an Interscholastic League level as they did before, but the students are playing soccer; and everyone knows that they are not competing at

the same level. The amount of students participating has tripled. At this time last year, the committee was talking about these students doing nothing and going directly home. Mr. Drager added there are seventeen large school communities doing the same thing. Mr. Marrone said that it was not fair to compare Interscholastic League sports to intramurals. Mr. Lupino responded that he was one of a handful who called him about middle school sports. Many of them were political calls. There were approximately eight parents at the very most who called him. He told Mr. Marrone that he was the only one who called him about an alternative team. The only question he was asked was, "Is there going to be a soccer team, or should I put my son in select soccer?" Mr. Lupino cited as an example when his son tried out for baseball at Western Hills, there were eighty-seven kids who tried out and fifteen made

Page 31 October 18, 2004

the team. He asked if that meant that all the kids who didn't make the team should have a club team. The committee is not comparing intramural sports to Interscholastic sports. The district is engaging kids, and they need to do something after school. They don't want to go home to an empty house. They would rather stay at their schools in a warm, friendly environment. They are still learning something with intramurals. Mr. Marrone stated that he commended the committee for having intramural sports, but they cannot be compared to Interscholastic League sports.

Dean Cooper, Stoney Acre Drive, Student at Western Hills Middle School – He wished to speak on intramural sports. He has played CLCF football and school sports. He is 6'1" tall, and he is playing with girls in 7th grade who are short. He indicated that the program should be more organized. It should be organized by skill level, size and age. He said that Cranston is a beautiful place to live. The money is going to programs, and they are worth it; but the committee should cut back on some of the programs. He feels that he and others have been cheated. For the past two years, he has been working very hard as a wrestler. This year he was hoping to get on junior varsity or varsity. There should be a different category for people who already play sports. For those who don't make a team, they should play intramural sports.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at
10:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Cardarelli, Jr.

Clerk

Jean M. Campbell

Principal/Director

Cranston Area Career & Technical Center

October 18, 2004

Chairwoman, White; Members of the School Committee, Mrs. Ciarlo, Superintendent; and distinguished members of the platform; I am here this evening to address School Committee Agenda Resolution NO. 04-10-7 that addresses disbursing \$118,000 of tuition revenue generated by the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center to the high schools, middle schools and elementary schools for textbook replacement.

The Cranston Area Career & Technical Center is a high performing,

improving school. It is the most reputable performing career and technical center in the State of Rhode Island. Unlike the members of its cohort, 74% of last year's graduating seniors attended 2 or four year colleges and 100% of its 186 seniors received high school diplomas.

The accomplishments of its students on the state and national levels and the recognitions and awards received by its teachers speak well for the reputation of the Center and consequently the student

demand to attend the Center is evidenced in the record number of applications we receive each year for a limited number of seats.

The primary concern that needs to be addressed this evening as it relates to this resolution is that no funds are being allocated for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center and it is the Center that actually generates them. The Center's budget has been dramatically cut over the last five years while tuition revenue and student enrollment has increased by at least 200 students. The Center's teachers provide authentic performance activities in their program areas that require extensive consumables rather than textbooks. However, high, middle and elementary schools the Center's textbook account was cut from \$12,674 in 2003 to \$4,000 for this academic school year. Many of the Level III programs utilize college textbooks that cost a minimum of \$80 or more each. In 2000 the Center's supplies and materials account was \$61,125. Now with 200 more students this account was reduced to \$30,000 in 2004. As we are a career and technical center, Capital

Outlay in the form of technology is imperative to remain current and competitive. Our Capital Outlay account was \$40,342 in 2000 and this year the Center has been allocated \$10,000. While the Center has been fortunate to seek and obtain grants, the dependency on this source of funds is tentative at best.

There are two programs at the Center that I would like to use as examples: culinary arts and child development. While these programs have diverse student teaching and learning goals, they have what are known as student revolving accounts. These accounts provide the teachers with funds to purchase unique ingredients for production and demonstration and in some instances for health snacks, children's books and field trips for their programs. In 2004, the culinary arts account was \$5,000. This year with additional students it is \$3,000. Additionally these same funds are shared in the sum of \$75 a month for two classes in the Family & Consumer Science Department at Cranston High School West titled Food Art I and II because culinary arts students

take them as co-requisite courses for their programs. As adults, we know how expensive it is to go to the grocery store. Realize that these funds are for products for at least 90 students. The student activity account has decreased from \$4,000 to \$2,000 for 654 students!

We are asking for your consideration to enable the Center to share in the disbursement of the \$118,000. Not solely for textbooks, but for

materials, supplies, activities and capital outlay that have been cut from our requests this year, as the Center is responsible for producing these funds. Also this year the following items were not provided as requested because of a lack of funds:

- .2 FTE in Child Development
- One full time and one part time teacher remain on the Perkins Grant rather than being placed in Fund I.
- .5 Guidance Counselor was not provided.
- A new program in Hair, Face and Nail design had 28 students apply and it is not running due to a lack of funds.
- This is the fourth year that the Teacher Academy, a program in collaboration with North Carolina University, is not running because of a lack of funds. Again, adequate enrollment was evidenced through student interest for this program.
- ½ of a computer laboratory was ordered with this year's capital outlay funds because there was not enough money to purchase an entire laboratory.
- This same generic computer laboratory needs to be partitioned off from a pre-existing classroom and there are not funds for construction to take place.
- The Rhode Island Department of Education indicates that career and technical programs must be certified for the school department to receive its \$500 career and technical reimbursement, these certifications require specific

laboratory space requirements and unique tools and

equipment. As an example, the Automotive Technology Program requires new diagnostic equipment, hydraulic lifts and many new tools to become NATFE certified. The process requires a self study, site visit and validation by RIDE. This cannot be accomplished without additional funds. (Based on this program alone, if it does not obtain certification status, the school system would lose \$ 23,000 (Based on

' J _____46 Students)

- The building is in dire need of renovation and hopefully Cranston will receive the \$2M that has been designated by the statewide bond issue on November 2 should it be approved.**

As the resolution indicates, the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center has consistently increased its tuition revenue for the past 5 years, The Center believes that it, too, should share in the benefits that these resources bring into the system. I am providing you a copy of enrollment figures from the year 2000 through 2005 and an account

history of the most critical accounts impacting teaching and learning for career and technical students. I am requesting you consider allocating the bulk of these funds to the Center.

CRANSTON AREA CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

2000 Through 2005

YEAR

2005

2004

2003

2002

2001

2000

STUDENTS

654

647

611

566

515

456

CRANSTON AREA CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

BUDGET LINE ITEM ALLOCATIONS

2000 Through 2005

2005*

2004

2003

2002

2001

2000

Supplies & Materials

\$55,505

\$30,000

\$48,302

\$60,428

\$60,428

\$61,125

Equipment

10,000

20,000

20,000

15,000

38,633

40,342

Books

4,000

4,000

12,674

10,365

10,365

9,834

Culinary/Food Art/Food Science

3,000

5,000

Child Development

1,500

2,300

Pupil Activities (VICA, DECA)

Student Competitions & Chaperones

2,000

4,000

kFigures represent those currently available through the Business Office.

ACTUAL VOCATIONAL TUITIONS

99/00	\$1,007,651	
00/01	\$1,285,201	
01/02	\$1,327,157	
02/03	\$1,456,672	
03/04	\$1,818,022	
04/05	projected	\$ 1,700,000 (at time of budget adoption, final
03/04	tuitions were not available.)	